

Population

Kansas increased in population from 2,694,641 residents in 2001 to 2,715,884 residents in 2002, a 0.8 percent increase. Hamilton, Ford, and Johnson counties had the largest increases in population from 1998 to 2002 with percent changes of 13.4, 11.2, and 10.9 respectively. Greeley, Lane and Graham counties had the largest decreases in population with percent changes of 13.6, 11.7, and 11.1 respectively. ([Table 2](#))

According to U.S. Census Bureau estimates, there were 2,715,884 Kansans in 2002, a 7.7 percent increase in total population since 1992. ([Figure 4](#), [Table 4](#))

The rate of natural increase (difference between birth rate and death rate) has generally declined from a rate of 13.5 in 1961. In 2002, the natural increase rate was 5.3, identical to the rate in 2001. ([Figure 5](#))

The median age of Kansans in 2002 was 35.4 years, a 5.7 percent increase from the 33.5 median age in 1992. The median age for Kansas males and females in 2002 was 34.0 and 36.8 respectively. ([Figure 6](#), [Table 4](#))

The percent increase in the Kansas total population from 1992-2002 was 7.7 percent, including an 8.5 percent increase for Kansas males and a 6.9 percent increase for Kansas females. Shifts in the Kansas population distribution by age from 1992 to 2002 included decreases in the 5-14, 25-34, and 65-74 age-groups of 0.3, 11.1, and 8.1 percent respectively. An increase of 48.2 percent in residents 45-54 years of age and 17.2 percent in residents 55-64 years of age reflected the aging of the baby boomers. Furthermore, there were 0.5, 16.6, 14.1, and 12.2 percent increases in the 0-4, 15-24, 35-44 and 75 and over age-groups respectively. ([Figure 7](#), [Table 4](#))

The population density of Kansas was 33.2 persons per square mile in 2002, a 25.3 percent increase from 26.5 persons per square mile in 1962 and a 7.8 percent increase in population density since 1992. For comparison, the population density of the U.S. has increased from 51.5 to 81.5 persons per square mile from 1962 to 2002 respectively, a 58.3 percent increase. ([Figure 8](#))

In 2002, 31 of Kansas' 105 counties had population densities of less than 6.0 persons per square mile. The most sparsely populated counties were Wallace and Greeley with a density of 1.9 persons per square mile. The most densely populated county was Wyandotte, with 1,048.5 persons per square mile. ([Figure 9](#))